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- August 27, 2009

By JANE ROH

New Jersey residents and elected representatives continued on Wednesday to protest a looming visit to the region from Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

"It would be a great insult to the family members of those who died on Pan Am Flight 103 to allow Moammar Gadhafi to move freely around the United States or to step foot in New Jersey," said U.S. Rep. John H. Adler, who represents New Jersey's 3rd congressional district.

A purported plan for the North African dictator to pitch a Bedouin-style tent on property Libya owns in Englewood sparked outrage after last week's release of Lockerbie bomber Abdel Basset Mohamed al-Megrahi. The Scottish government granted early release of the cancer-stricken Megrahi -- who has months to live -- to his home country, where he was greeted by flag-waving countrymen.

Megrahi is the only person convicted of involvement in the 1988 attack on Pan Am Flight 103, which killed 270 people. Thirty-three of the 189 Americans on board were from New Jersey.

During a press conference at the Victims of Terrorism Memorial at Cooper River Park Wednesday morning, Adler announced he would introduce a House resolution condemning Megrahi's release and calling on Tripoli to confine him to house arrest. Also with Adler were local family members of Pan Am 103 victims.

Citing the distress felt by the victims' families, Adler said of Megrahi, "He remains a living symbol of terrorism's success in killing their family members. Real Americans who see a hero's welcome for a terrorist don't think that shows us Libya is ready to move forward into the league of modern nations with respect to the rule of law and (regard for) human life."

Once considered a state sponsor of terrorism, Libya has succeeded in normalizing relations with Washington. Following the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, Gadhafi renounced nuclear weapons and pledged cooperation with the West on terrorism. The United Nations and Washington lifted economic sanctions on Libya after Gadhafi agreed to take responsibility for the bombing and pay \$2.7 billion in compensation to the victims' families.

In 2006, Libya became host to a U.S. embassy for the first time in three decades. Last year, Gadhafi spoke with then-President George W. Bush over the phone, and his eldest son Saif al-Islam Gadhafi -- a declared moderate and rumored successor to his father -- met in Washington with then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Adler believes that Megrahi's "hero's welcome" has squashed what good will Americans had

toward Libya.

"I think Libya has taken a giant step back by celebrating a terrorist, and it calls into question the sincerity of their actions a few years ago," he said.

The survivors of the Lockerbie victims were similarly unmoved by Libya's recent overtures.

"I don't want (Gadhafi) in the U.S.," declared Kara Weipz of Mount Laurel. Richard Monetti, her 20-year-old brother, was among the Syracuse students headed home on the flight. "But if he has to come because it's a U.N. visit, he needs to stay in the U.N. district."

There are no residences or hotels on U.N. property. Gadhafi originally requested permission to pitch his tent in Central Park and was turned down. Then press reports stated he was eyeing the Libyan-owned property in North Jersey, prompting Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., to ask Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to confine Gadhafi's movements to U.N. headquarters. Menendez also wrote her a letter.

In a daily press briefing Wednesday, State Department spokesman Ian Kelly indicated that restrictions probably could not be placed on Gadhafi's or any other Libyan diplomat's movements on U.S. soil, but expressed hope that "some kind of understanding -- that is respectful of the sensitivities" involved could be reached.

Stan Maslowski, who lost his 30-year-old daughter Diane in the bombing, likened the Scottish government's actions to the release of Nazi war criminals. Was there anything Gadhafi could do to make the Haddonfield retiree OK with next month's visit?

"Drop dead," Maslowski said.